

WE CLAIM:

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1. In an interactive televideo system having a central control node in  
bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display  
sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node  
5 delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations  
and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system  
including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a  
method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming  
included in the programming guide, comprising:
- 10 obtaining a user selection indication corresponding to programming selected  
by the viewer from the programming guide;  
accessing in accordance with the user selection indication summary  
information relating to the programming selected by the viewer; and  
displaying the summary information for the viewer on a video display set.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes a text  
description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
3. The method of claim 2 in which the displaying of the summary  
information includes displaying the text description in a text description window.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes  
20 display imagery relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
5. The method of claim 4 in which the displaying of the summary  
information includes displaying the display imagery in a preview display window.
6. The method of claim 4 in which the display imagery includes a multi-  
frame video segment relating to the program selected by the viewer.
- 25 7. The method of claim 6 in which the selected programming is transmitted

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from the central control node when the programming is selected by the viewer and the multi-frame video segment includes the transmitted selected programming.

8. The method of claim 6 in which the multi-frame video segment includes a preselected video segment that relates to the selected programming and is less  
5 than the entire selected programming.

9. The method of claim 4 in which the display imagery is a single image frame relating to the programming selected by the viewer.

10. The method of claim 1 in which the summary information includes a text description and display imagery relating to the program selected by the  
10 viewer.

11. In an interactive video system having a central control node in bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations  
15 and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide from which viewers select programming, a method of displaying for a viewer summary information relating to programming included in the programming guide, comprising:

storing in a memory associated with the interactive video system  
20 programming summary information that relates to available programming available to a viewer and includes video segments relating to the available programming;

obtaining an indication of programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide;

retrieving from the memory the programming summary information  
25 corresponding to the programming selected by the viewer from the programming

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guide; and

displaying the programming summary information for the viewer on a video display set.

12. The method of claim 11 in which the memory associated with the  
5 interactive video system is included in the central control node, the indication of  
programming selected by the viewer from the programming guide is transmitted  
by the interactive station controller to the central control node, and displaying the  
summary information for the viewer on a video display set includes transmitting  
the program summary information from the central control node to the interactive  
10 station controller associated with the video display set.
13. The method of claim 11 in which the summary information further  
includes a text description relating to the programming selected by the viewer.
14. The method of claim 13 in which the text description and video segment  
are displayed in, respectively, a text description window and a preview display  
15 window that are displayed adjacent each other.
15. The method of claim 11 in which the programming summary  
information is displayed simultaneously with the programming guide.
16. The method of claim 11 in which the programming summary  
information displayed for the viewer includes an icon indicating a predetermined  
20 characteristic of the selected programming.
17. The method of claim 16 in which the predetermined characteristic of the  
selected programming is selectively cued by the viewer.
18. In an interactive video system having a central control node in  
bidirectional communication with plural viewer stations that include video display  
25 sets operably coupled to interactive station controllers, the central control node

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delivering video programming over multiple channels to the plural viewer stations and receiving information from the interactive station controllers, the system including a programming guide listing programming available to a viewer, a memory associated with the interactive video system, comprising:

- 5 programming summary information that relates to programming available to a viewer and includes multi-frame video segments relating to the available programming.

19. The memory of claim 18 in which the programming summary information further includes a text description relating to the programming  
10 available to the viewer.

20. The memory of claim 18 in which the programming summary information further includes a still image relating to the programming available to  
the viewer.

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